

A report of the excursion to Cheltenham on Saturday, 5th September, was furnished by the leader, Mr. C. French, F.L.S., when, accompanied by a party of members of the University Science Club, an extended exploration of the heath-ground towards Cheltenham was made. Spring flowers were in abundance, and a number of plants of *Phylloglossum Drummondii* were collected. A fine patch of the orchid *Lyperanthus nigricans*, in flower, was found, being some three weeks earlier than usually noted. During the afternoon a halt was called and an examination made of the specimens collected, the names, &c., being furnished by the leader.

ELECTION OF MEMBER.

On a ballot being taken, Mr. J. Paul was duly elected a member of the Club.

PAPERS READ.

1. By Mr. A. E. Kitson, entitled "Geological Notes on the Toombullup Goldfield and Adjacent Country."

The author described the main characteristics of the locality, which is situated about the centre of the county of Delatite, and the methods used in the gold mining. The origin of the gold was somewhat obscure, and the district required further exploration before it could be determined whether it originally occurred in a basaltic or granitic formation. He noted the occurrence of gem-stones, such as sapphires, zircons (hyacinths), Oriental emeralds, and topazes, some of which were large enough to be of commercial value.

During the discussion which ensued Baron von Mueller spoke of his experiences when collecting botanical specimens in the district some forty years previously. Messrs. G. Coghill, T. S. Hall, M.A., H. R. Hogg, M.A., H. T. Tisdall, and G. B. Pritchard also spoke.

2. By Mr. J. H. Wright (communicated by Mr. T. S. Hall, M.A.), entitled "Notes on the Mode of Wood Petrification."

The paper referred to a specimen of fossil wood found in a block of ferruginous quartzite at Darlimurla, South Gippsland. On examination under the microscope it was found to consist of silicious casts of the tracheides of a woody tissue. The author then gave some account of how this condition may have been produced.

3. By Lieutenant-Colonel Legge, F.L.S. (hon. member), entitled "Notes on a *Sericornis* from Kent Group."

The author described a *Sericornis* collected by the Field Naturalists' Club expedition to the Kent Group, which, having certain differences from *Sericornis frontalis*, might be considered as a sub-species, and proposed for it the name *S. gularis*.

Some discussion ensued, which opened up the question of the